Patent claims

1-7. (canceled)

8.   (new) A communication network having a communication component with client and server functionalities, the client functionalities including a search function for ascertaining a current address of those communication components that allow the server functionalities to be used, comprising:

a retrieval mechanism that obtains information about the server functionalities of the communication component, the client functionalities of other communication components capable of retrieving the information obtained by the retrieval mechanism,

wherein the server functionalities provide usable services in the communication network.

9.   (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the communication network provides for a self-administration on the basis of the information ascertained by the search functions.

10.   (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein a plurality of search functions are contained in the communication network and in a plurality of communication components.

11.   (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein a server functionality is selected for use by using a state information when a plurality of server functionalities are present.

12.   (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the state information comprises a current utilization level of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

13. (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the state information comprises the use cost of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

14. (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the client functionality is designed to retrieve an authorization before using a server functionality.

15. (new) The communication network as claimed in Claim 14, wherein at least one server functionality is provided for managing the authorization.

16. (new) A method of communication within a network, comprising:

providing a plurality of communication components with client and server functionalities;

ascertaining a current address of at least some of the communication components that allow the server functionalities to be used via a search function; and

retrieving the server functionality information about at least some of the communication components by the client functionality,

wherein the server functionalities provide services in the communication network.

17. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising providing a self-administration based of the information ascertained by the search functions.

18. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a plurality of search functions are contained in the communication network and in the communication components.

19. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a server functionality is selected for use by using a state information when a plurality of server functionalities are present.

20.   (new) The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the state information comprises a current utilization level of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

21.   (new) The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the state information comprises the use cost of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

22.   (new) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the client functionality is designed to retrieve an authorization before using a server functionality.

23.   (new) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein at least one server functionality is provided for managing the authorization.

24.   (new) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the current address of all of the communication components are ascertained.

25.   (new) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the server functionality of all of the communication components are retrieved.